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Date: June 18, 2021 GBCG Correspondence #2021-07

To: Great Basin Interagency Wildland Fire Community

From: Chair, Great Basin Coordinating Group

Subject: Rental vehicle shortages and expectations for 2021

**Background/Status:** Rental vehicle availability has been limited due to COVID-19. This limitation has adversely impacted rental vehicles as a reliable option for mobilization. Supply chain issues led to heavy duty pickup shortages in 2020. The first Great Basin IMT mobilization occurred on June 5<sup>th</sup>, and multiple locations across the Basin were unable to obtain any sort of rental vehicle to assist with mobilization efforts. This shortage is not tied to NERV or Enterprise, the national rental agency industry is unable to meet the demand.

**Expectations for mobilizing resources:** 2021 Expectations surrounding rental vehicles will need to be managed, and alternative mobilization solutions will need to be thoughtfully and strategically implemented.

- Individuals mobilizing outside the geographic area must be prepared to fly. There is guidance within the National Mobilization Guide that clearly identifies standard gear weights (NMG, pg. 11). Resources should be reminded that they are expected to follow this mobilization guidance, and that of their local unit.
- IMT's will play a key communication role in preparing their participants for mobilization:
  - Be prepared to carpool.
  - Identify who has agency vehicles (or alternatives) that will assist in the process of an efficient mobilization. This should be clearly indicated on the roster to raise awareness of the participating dispatch offices.
- IMT IT trailers should reside in locations where towing capabilities exist.
  - Identify which IMT members possess towing capabilities.
  - If IMT's lack towing capability, an alternate option may be assigned to preposition the trailer.
    - Incident hosts would then be responsible to return the trailer upon demobilization.
- IMT's should be prepared to travel by bus, van, or chartered flight as directed.
  - Incidents must provide Ground Support with sufficient vehicles to provision that specific incident.
- Dispatch Units may need to hire VIPR, vehicle, and driver for passenger transport.

- Dispatch Units hosting IMT's must be prepared to establish Transportation Units/Ground Support options.
  - Individuals will be shuttled to ICP for the duration of their time on the incident.
  - Vehicles will be checked out through the incident Ground Support Unit.
  - **REMINDER:** 15 passenger vans are prohibited from use.
- Units should contact local vendors to supplement capacity.
  - **CAUTION:** Incident Only EERA's are not available for reassignments.
- Local units should message responders, including casual hires, on expectation management surrounding mobilization.
- Personally owned vehicles (POV's) may be authorized for on-pavement transportation on a case-by-case basis from the home unit.

Brett Ostler  
Acting, Great Basin Coordinating Group Chair

CC: Great Basin Coordination Center Manager